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ABSTRACT

Academic and demographic information are obtained annually on students at General College (GC) in order to adjust programs to student needs. In 1981, data were gathered on students' sex, age, ethnicity, home county, parents' characteristics, educational background and objectives, self-assessment of basic skills, counseling needs, anticipated major, high school performance, quarters registered, major, grade point average (GPA), and credits attempted. The study involved an examination of the records of all GC students enrolled in fall 1981 (N=3,416) and the records of students newly enrolled in summer or fall 1981 (N=1,289), and a survey of 1,069 students conducted during freshman orientation in fall 1981. The study involved the following: (1) 57% of the students were male, 79% were white, and their mean age was 21.9 years; (2) of the freshmen surveyed at orientation, 68% planned to transfer from GC to another University of Minnesota college, 48% planned to receive financial aid, and 72.7% planned to work full- or part-time while enrolled at the school; (3) over 50% of the freshmen felt counseling assistance would be helpful in career and educational planning and study skills; (4) 60% of all GC students and 68% of the new GC students had graduated from high school between 1977 and 1981; and (5) 38.6% of all GC students were undecided about their major. The bulk of the study report consists of data tables detailing findings. (DAB)

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general college Reports

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THE GENERAL COLLEGE STUDENT FALL 1981

by
John L. Romano

The General College has been systematically collecting a variety of data about its student body over its 50 year history. We have developed diagnostic entrance examinations that help us understand the educational needs of each student coming to the College. We have also measured the breadth and depth of areas of knowledge that students have been experiencing during the 2-year Associate in Arts degree program through a Degree Comprehensive or exit examination.

One of our more recent attempts to better understand and accomodate our students is the 5-year sequence of demographic and academic studies performed by Professor Romano. These and other studies serve as a means to adjust our programs to the ever changing needs of the wide range of Minnesotans that seek out our general/liberal arts curriculum and student services offerings.

Thomas C. Buckley
Associate Dean

The General College Student

Fall 1981

This is the fifth report dating from 1976 giving demographic and academic information about the General College (GC) student. The report provides a description of all GC students (N=3416) enrolled Fall 1981 as well as for all GC students (N=1289) who were newly enrolled in the College either summer or Fall 1981.

Generally, this information is similar to that reported for the GC student population of the previous year. The total number of GC students increased 2% from 1980 to 1981 while those students new to GC in Fall 1981 decreased 6% from 1980. In 1981 males were more frequently represented than females. Of those reporting ethnic background, 79% identified themselves as white, and 21% with an ethnic group or as an international student. Of those students new to GC in 1981, 77% were identified as white and 23% as minority or international. The latter percentage is an increase of 3% over the previous years; 2% of this increase occurred in the Asian American group.

The average age of students continues to be in the low 20's, and about 80% of the students come from the seven-county metropolitan area. Sixty-eight percent of the entering students plan to transfer from GC to another U of M college, while 20% were not sure of their transfer plans. Eighty percent of the entering students aspire to a bachelor's degree and above, while 9% desire an Associate degree or a specialized certificate diploma. The major areas in which new students want counseling assistance are in career and educational planning, study skills, financial counseling, and stress management (including help with test and speech anxiety).

Of the students reporting high school percentile rank, the mean high school percentile rank is in the lower half of the third decile. Highland, Edina-West and Washburn high schools continue to be the most frequently represented by entering students. Nearly 40% of the students were undecided about an academic major when completing their admission application. Another 12% indicated a major which could not be coded. The most frequently cited majors were pre-business (15%) and pre-IT (4%).

Of those students reporting a U of M GPA, the average cumulative GPA was 2.60 (not including the N grade). When N is included in the calculation, the GPA drops to 2.36. The percentage of credits completed to those attempted at the U of M was 79% for those students reporting a credit completion ratio.

More detailed information is provided on the following pages.

Prepared by John L. Romano, Associate Professor, Counseling and Student Development, General College, University of Minnesota, with assistance from the Data Retrieval Center, Office of Admissions and Records. June 1982.

Part I - Demographic Data

		All GC Students Fall 1981			New to GC Summer or Fall 1981		
A.	Sex:	N	%		N	%	
	Male	1937	56.7		721	55.9	
	Female	1472	43.1		561	43.5	
	Missing	7	0.2		7	0.5	
	Total	3416			1289		
B.	Ethnic Background:	N	%		N	%	
	American Indian	61	1.8	(2.1)	24	1.9	(2.4)
	Asian American	164	4.8	(5.6)	82	6.4	(8.1)
	Black	245	7.2	(8.4)	86	6.7	(8.5)
	Chicano	48	1.4	(1.6)	16	1.2	(1.6)
	International (foreign)	71	2.1	(2.4)	19	1.5	(1.9)
	Other Spanish	23	0.7	(0.8)	7	0.5	(0.7)
	White	2309	67.6	(79.0)	774	60.0	(76.8)
	Missing data	495	14.5	--	281	21.8	--
C.	Age:	N	%		N	%	
	17-18	415	12.1		404	31.3	
	19-20	1170	34.3		488	37.9	
	21-22	770	22.5		161	12.5	
	23-26	520	15.3		105	8.2	
	27-30	75	5.1		36	2.8	
	31-35	88	2.6		16	1.2	
	36-40	36	1.1		12	0.9	
	41-50	29	0.8		7	0.5	
	51-58	9	0.3		1	0.1	
	Missing data	204	6.0		59	4.6	
	Mean	21.9			20.4		
	Median	20.5			19.2		
	Mode	19			18		
	Std dev	4.6			4.0		
D.	Home County:	N	%		N	%	
	Metro Area (total)	2712	79.5		1045	81.1	
	Anoka	108	3.2				
	Carver	16	0.5				
	Dakota	113	3.3				
	Hennepin	1742	51.0				
	Ramsey	666	19.5				
	Scott	12	0.4				
	Washington	55	1.6				
	Central Minnesota	64	1.9		30	2.3	
	Southeast Minnesota	69	2.0		28	2.2	
	Southwest Minnesota	59	1.7		24	1.9	
	Northeast Minnesota	29	0.8		4	0.3	
	Northwest Minnesota	16	0.5		7	0.5	
	Out of State	246	7.2		113	8.8	
	Out of Country	89	2.6		26	2.0	
	Missing data	132	3.9		12	0.9	

E. Parent's Occupation:	N	%
Managerial	171	5.0
Skilled Trades	134	3.9
Professional	132	3.9
Sales	99	2.9
Service Trades	43	1.3
Clerical or Office	35	1.0
Farm	12	0.4
Unskilled	7	0.2
Other	121	3.5
Missing data	2662	77.9

Note: The following Tables F - P (noted with *) contain data collected from the GC Student Survey completed by 1069 GC students during freshman orientation Fall 1981.

*F. Parent's Education:	Mother		Father	
	N	%	N	%
8th grade or less	51	4.8	76	7.1
Some high school	63	5.9	71	6.6
High school grad or equivalent	377	35.3	210	19.6
Some college	235	22.0	160	15.0
Post high sch voc training or certificate	87	8.1	94	8.8
Bachelor's degree	148	13.8	209	19.6
Master's degree	48	4.5	115	10.8
Doctorate degree	6	0.6	60	5.6
Missing data	54	5.1	74	6.9

*G. Will you be receiving financial aid to attend college?

	N	%
Yes	513	48.0
No	525	49.1
Missing data	31	2.9

*H. Do you plan to work while attending college?

	N	%
No	136	12.7
Yes, 1-10 hrs/wk	168	15.7
Yes, 11-20 hrs/wk	416	38.9
Yes, 21-35 hrs/wk	150	14.0
Yes, 36 or more hrs/wk	44	4.1
Not sure	154	14.4
Missing data	1	0.1

*I. Do you plan to transfer from GC?	N	%
No	98	9.2
Yes, to another college within the University	728	68.1
Yes, to another college outside the University	34	3.2
Not sure	208	19.5
Missing data	1	0.1

*J. What is the highest grade level you completed before enrolling in GC?

	N	%
8th grade or less	3	0.3
Some high school	11	1.0
High school grad	681	63.7
GED diploma	44	4.1
One year or less of college	210	19.6
Two or more years of college	82	7.7
Other	36	3.4
Missing data	2	0.2

*K. How many years has it been since you last attended any school?

	N	%
Less than 1 yr	735	68.8
1-2 yrs	185	17.3
3-5 yrs	78	7.3
6-10 yrs	42	3.9
More than 10 yrs	24	2.2
Missing data	5	0.5

*L. What is the highest academic degree you wish to obtain?

	N	%
None	47	4.4
Certificate (less than AA)	27	2.5
Associate's degree	69	6.5
Bachelor's degree	519	48.6
Master's degree	277	25.9
Doctorate degree	59	5.5
Missing data	71	6.6

*M. How well prepared do you feel in the following skill areas?

	Very Well		Fairly Well		Not Well		Missing	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Math	117	10.9	499	46.7	422	39.5	31	2.9
Writing	172	16.1	707	66.1	159	14.9	31	2.9
Reading	309	28.9	620	58.0	110	10.3	30	2.8
Study	147	13.8	601	56.2	270	25.3	51	4.8
Musical and artistic	201	18.8	426	39.9	406	38.0	36	3.4
Library and research	122	11.4	687	64.3	224	21.0	36	3.4
Time management	164	15.3	673	63.0	195	18.2	37	3.5
Science	132	12.3	575	53.8	325	30.4	37	3.5
History, social science	208	19.5	630	58.9	193	18.1	38	3.6
Art, music literature apprec	244	22.8	491	45.9	292	27.3	42	3.9
Decision making	322	30.1	615	57.5	90	8.4	42	3.9
Career and college major plans	223	20.9	605	56.6	196	18.3	45	4.2

*N. In which of the following areas would counseling be helpful to you? (mark all that apply)

	N	%
Financial	355	33.2
Family	34	3.2
Study skills	565	52.9
Career & educational planning	597	55.8
Making friends	71	6.6
Marriage or couples	28	2.6
General stress reduction	168	15.7
Chemical dependency	18	1.7
Test or speech anxiety	172	16.1
Other	18	1.7

*O. What are you planning to major in?

	N	%
Undecided	283	26.5
Business	234	21.9
Humanities	33	3.1
Social science	79	7.4
Math or science	136	12.7
Medical science	73	6.8
Education	37	3.5
Other	155	14.5
Missing data	39	3.7

*P. Do you have a physical, emotional, or learning disability?

	N	%
Yes	58	5.4
No	934	87.4
Missing data	77	7.2

Part II - Academic Background

Before U of M

A. High Schools

	All Students--F 81	
	N	%
St. Paul Public School District		
Highland	88	2.6
Central	26	0.8
Johnson	21	0.6
Harding	19	0.6
Murray	16	0.5
Humboldt	11	0.3
Other St. Paul Public District (10 students or less)	14	0.5
Minneapolis Public School District		
Washburn	69	2.0
Southwest	41	1.2
Roosevelt	39	1.1
Marshall	31	0.9
Central	28	0.8
South	21	0.6
North	18	0.5
Edison	18	0.5
West	18	0.5
Henry	15	0.4
Other Minneapolis Public District (10 students or less)	7	0.2
Metro Public Schools (200 or more students)		
Edina-West	88	2.6
Lindberg-Hopkins	74	2.2
St. Louis Park	72	2.1
Edina-East	65	1.9
Minnetonka	63	1.8
Ramsey-Roseville	59	1.7
Wayzata	52	1.5
Eisenhower-Hopkins	41	1.2
Armstrong-Robbinsdale	39	1.1
Moundsview-New Brighton	35	1.0
St. Anthony Village	34	1.0
Richfield	33	1.0
Lincoln-Bloomington	31	0.9
Robbinsdale	29	0.8
Jefferson-Bloomington	28	0.8
Kellogg-Roseville	25	0.7
Savage-Burnsville	25	0.7
Irondale-New Brighton	24	0.7
Sibley-West St. Paul	24	0.7
Golden Valley	23	0.7
Fridley	22	0.6
Columbia Heights	21	0.6
Other Public Schools	522	15.3

	N	%
Private Schools		
Cretin-St. Paul	39	1.1
Benilde-St. Louis Park	27	0.8
Grace-Fridley	19	0.6
Holy Angels-Richfield	19	0.6
Hill-Murray-St. Paul	17	0.5
Other Private Schools (15 students or less)	123	3.6
Non-high school grad	211	6.2
Noncodeable	16	0.5
Missing data	1016	29.7

B. High School Class Size:

	All GC Students F 81		New to GC SS or F 81	
	N	%	N	%
1-50	38	1.1	16	1.2
51-100	85	2.5	36	2.8
101-150	162	4.7	53	4.1
151-200	190	5.6	88	6.8
201-250	158	4.6	49	3.8
251-300	116	3.4	58	4.5
301-350	97	2.8	29	2.2
351 or more	1433	41.9	551	42.7
Missing data	1137	33.3	409	31.7
Mean	399		387	
Std Dev	189.5		182.0	

C. Year of High School Graduation:

	All GC Students F 81		New to GC AA or F 81	
	N	%	N	%
Before 1960	18	0.5	5	0.5
1960-1970	116	3.4	21	1.6
1971-1973	109	3.2	30	2.4
1974-1976	263	7.7	50	4.0
1977-1979	910	26.6	157	12.2
1980-1981	1140	33.4	726	56.5
Missing data	860	25.2	300	23.3

D. High School Percentile Rank:

	All GC Students F 81		New to GC SS or F 81	
Percentile Rank	N	%	N	%
1-10	271	8.0 (11.6)*	124	9.6 (14.0)*
11-20	395	11.5 (16.9)	152	11.8 (17.2)
21-30	442	13.0 (19.0)	169	13.1 (19.2)
31-40	417	12.2 (17.9)	160	12.4 (18.1)
41-50	383	11.2 (16.4)	147	11.4 (16.6)
51-60	189	5.5 (8.1)	67	5.2 (7.6)
61-70	112	3.3 (4.8)	29	2.3 (3.2)
71-80	62	1.8 (2.6)	20	1.6 (2.2)

	N	%	N	%
81-90	41	1.2 (1.7)	12	1.0 (1.4)
91-99	17	0.5 (0.7)	2	0.2 (0.2)
Missing data	1087	31.8	407	31.6
Mean	33.7		31.8	
Std dev	19.9		18.8	
Median	31.7		30.3	

*Percentages in parentheses based only on those reporting percentile rank.

E. High School Grade Point Averages (GPA):

	All GC Students F 81			New to GC SS or F 81		
	N	Mean	Std Dev	N	Mean	Std Dev
Overall GPA	2564	2.19	0.48	964	2.17	0.44
Academic GPA	2563	2.11	0.50	963	2.07	0.46
English GPA	2559	2.23	0.61	961	2.19	0.58
Math GPA	2332	1.90	0.74	882	1.87	0.72
SocSci GPA	2536	2.15	0.63	950	2.10	0.61
NatSci GPA	2188	2.02	0.68	827	2.00	0.63

F. Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT):

	All GC Students F 81				New to GC SS or F 81			
	Verbal		Math		Verbal		Math	
Score	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
6-10	5	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
11-20	61	1.8	14	0.5	19	1.4	4	0.3
21-30	324	9.5	207	6.0	135	10.4	79	6.1
31-40	537	15.7	507	14.8	203	15.8	194	15.1
41-50	204	6.0	327	9.5	66	5.1	124	9.6
51-60	20	0.6	88	2.6	7	0.5	28	2.2
61-70	1	-	9	0.3	1	0.1	2	0.2
Missing data	2264	66.3	2264	66.3	893	65.0	858	66.6
Mean	33.6		37.9		33.4		37.8	
Std dev	8.0		8.3		7.5		7.9	

G. American College Testing Program (ACT):

	All GC Students F 81 (N=3416)									
	Composite		Eng		Math		Soc Sci		Nat Sci	
Score	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1-5	9	0.3	72	0.6	81	2.4	61	1.8	7	0.2
6-10	128	3.7	186	5.4	255	7.5	280	8.2	65	1.9
11-15	419	12.3	400	11.7	329	9.6	291	8.5	260	7.6
16-20	403	11.8	402	11.8	282	8.3	257	7.5	427	12.5
21-25	144	4.2	96	2.8	123	3.9	177	5.2	221	6.5
26-30	8	0.2	4	0.1	30	0.9	42	1.2	113	3.3
31-35	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.1	17	0.5
Missing data	2305	67.5	2306	67.5	2306	67.5	2306	67.5	2306	67.5
Mean	15.5		14.7		14.0		14.6		18.4	
Std dev	4.3		4.5		5.9		6.2		5.4	

H. American College Testing Program (ACT):

New to GC SS or F 81 (N=1289)

Score	Composite N	Composite %	Eng N	Eng %	Math N	Math %	Soc Sci N	Soc Sci %	Nat Sci N	Nat Sci %
1-5	2	0.2	11	0.9	33	2.6	20	1.6	2	0.2
6-10	45	3.5	65	5.0	93	7.2	104	8.1	24	1.9
11-15	155	12.0	151	11.7	106	8.2	94	7.3	82	6.4
16-20	131	10.2	124	9.6	87	6.7	92	7.1	149	11.6
21-25	46	3.6	30	2.3	52	4.0	58	4.5	86	6.7
26-30	2	0.2	-	-	10	0.8	13	1.0	33	2.6
31-35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0.4
Missing data	908	70.4	908	70.4	908	70.4	908	70.4	908	70.4
Mean	15.3		14.3		13.8		14.4		18.3	
Std dev	4.2		4.4		6.0		6.2		5.4	

Part III - U of M

Academic Background

	All GC Students F 81		New to GC SS or F 81	
A. Class in School	N	%	N	%
Freshmen	1480	43.3	1115	86.5
Sophomore	1215	35.6	128	9.9
Junior	469	13.7	33	2.6
Senior	222	6.5	3	0.2
Adult Special	30	0.9	10	0.8
B. Total Quarters Registered	N	%	N	%
1	1162	34.0	1162	90.1
2-3	441	12.9	127	9.9
4	640	18.7	-	-
5-6	310	9.1	-	-
7	296	8.7	-	-
8-9	208	6.1	-	-
10	131	3.8	-	-
11-12	85	2.5	-	-
13	47	1.4	-	-
14-16	58	1.7	-	-
More than 16	38	1.1	-	-

C. Major as Listed on Admission Application (15 or more students)

	N	%	N	%
Undecided	1317	38.6	501	38.9
Not Codeable	412	12.1	141	10.9
Missing	40	1.2	185	14.4
Pre-IT	124	3.6	67	5.2
Pre-Journalism	58	1.7	30	2.3
Psychology	56	1.6	23	1.8
Computer Science	50	1.5	21	1.6
Pre-Nursing	46	1.3	20	1.6
Pre-Elem Educ	42	1.2	20	1.6
Marketing	37	1.1	19	1.5
English	35	1.0	11	0.9
Hosp Health Care Admin	30	0.9	9	0.7
Speech Communications	29	0.8	14	1.1
Studio Arts	29	0.8	8	0.6
Sociology	29	0.8	9	0.7
Pre-Med	27	0.8	11	0.9
Social Work	23	0.7	7	0.5
Business Admin	23	0.7	6	0.5
Pre-Biol Sci	22	0.6	14	1.1
Political Sci	20	0.6	5	0.4
Architecture	19	0.6	7	0.5
Pre-Phys Educ	19	0.6	3	0.2
Theatre Arts	19	0.6	7	0.5
Music	17	0.5	5	0.4
Pre-Physical Therapy	16	0.5	6	0.5
Math	15	0.4	6	0.5

D. U of M Cumulative Credits, GPA, and Coefficient of Completion (GC)

	All Students F 81		
	N	Mean	Std Dev
U of M Cum Credits Attempted	3416	40.5	45.8
U of M Cum Credits Completed	3416	31.5	36.3
U of M Cum GPA*	2199	2.60	0.59
U of M Cum GPA**	2199	2.36	0.76
U of M Cum CC***	2242	0.79	0.23
U of M Cum CC ****	2235	0.84	0.21
Previous College GPA	753	2.08	0.62

*N grades not included in calculation

**N grades included in calculation and counted as F grades

***All credits completed divided by all credits attempted

****All credits completed divided by all credits attempted with W grades deleted from the denominator

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